

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

Non-elected claims 19-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application(s) directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

Claims 1-3 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1-3 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 11 and 12 have been amended to depend from claim 4. Withdrawal of the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection is respectfully requested.

While not acquiescing in the rejections or in the characterizations of the references contained in the office action, claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6. Naito et al. does not anticipate amended claim 4.

The office action contends that Naito et al. discloses "a DE rec/rep head provided with a slider having a surface facing to the DE recording medium." However, Naito et al. does not disclose a slider that comprises a conductive member and functions as a return electrode for returning an electric field applied from the recording/reproducing electrode to the dielectric recording medium." As described at page 18, lines 1-4 of the subject patent application, a slider is grounded in order to function as a return electrode. Naito et al. fails to disclose, among other things, a grounded slider. Naito et al. simply discloses that an electrode is arranged within the slider on the side of the recording medium in a manner to surround the opening.

Takanishi (U.S. Patent No. 5,226,029) and Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,020,064) also fail to disclose a slider as recited in claim 4.

Consequently, claim 4 and its dependent claims patentably distinguish over the applied references.

New claims 25-30 have been added.

Claims 25 and 26 refer to claim 4 and are believed to patentably distinguish from the applied references at least because of this dependency.

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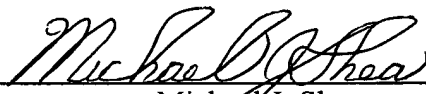
The dielectric head of claim 27 comprises an electrode for applying an electric field to a dielectric recording medium, and a slider surrounding the electrode and including a surface facing the dielectric recording medium. The slider comprises a grounded conductive member. As noted above, the applied references fail to disclose, among other things, a slider having a grounded conductive member. Consequently, claim 27 and claims 28-30 (which refer thereto) patentably distinguish from the applied references.

The pending claims are believed to patentably distinguish from the applied references and favorable office action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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